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Joseph Hotchkiss House
East Haven, Connecticut

HABS No. Conn. 21

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold H. Davis, District Officer
29 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Conn.

THE JOSEPH HOTCHKISS HOUSE

East Haven, New Haven County, Connecticut

Owner: Estate of Clifford H. Street, East Haven, Connecticut

Date of Erection: 1794

Architect: Not known

Builder: Captain Joseph Hotchkiss

Present Condition: Fair, has added lean-to about 1850-60

Number of Stories: One and one-half and attic

Materials of Construction: Stone foundations
Siding not original, north elevation shingled
Other elevations clapboarded
Wood shingled roof covered with asphalt shingles
Stone chimney

Other Existing Records: History and photographs in "Old Houses of East Haven" by Donald V. Chidsey filed in the Hagan Memorial Library, East Haven, Connecticut.

List of Photographs:

1. Southeast Elevation
2. Northwest Elevation

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THE JOSEPH HOTCHKISS HOUSE
EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

House

The Joseph Hotchkiss was built in 1794 and is located on the west side of North High Street about a quarter of a mile north of the railroad. The place is now owned by the estate of Mr. Clifford H. Street.

This quaint old story and a half cottage was built by Captain Joseph Hotchkiss who was born in 1756. It should be mentioned here that Joseph Hotchkiss was one of the three men who met with a serious accident while raising the last window cap on the back side of the Old Stone church when the scaffold gave away and the three men with the stone in their arms fell to the ground. Mr. Hotchkiss had one leg crushed by the stone; he passed through ten months of suffering, but finally regained his health in time to aid the Patriots of East Haven during the events of the Revolutionary War that started in the year following. He obtained his ranking title by being captain in the local militia during this war. Captain Hotchkiss died on May 2, 1825 and his grave is now decorated each year by the Sons of the American Revolution.

Lyman Hotchkiss, son of Captain Hotchkiss was born in 1784 and he occupied the house upon the death of his father. The house was next occupied by the son of Lyman Hotchkiss, Joseph I. Hotchkiss, born in 1814. Mr. Hotchkiss was one of the last of his generation in East Haven at the time of his death in 1906. Captain Hotchkiss, who gained his title in 1840, was selectman in East Haven for several years and also represented East Haven at the General Assembly in 1869. He was a farmer in a small way and afterwards took up joiner work which was his occupation until his death.

At the death of Captain Joseph Hotchkiss this house fell to his daughter Sarah who was born in 1835 and lived practically her entire life in this house. Upon her death in 1914, the property went to her nephew Clifford H. Street. The house now remains in the hands of the descendants of the first Captain Joseph Hotchkiss all of these one hundred and forty-two years.

Source of information: "Old Houses of East Haven" by D. V. Chidsey.

Author: *Margaret M. Blake*

Approved:

Harold H. Davis Dist. Officer

Oct 30, 1936

Rec. Jan 7 '37 The